AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of vulcanization-molding a rubber material by heating a vulcanization mold and pushing the rubber material onto a shaping face of the mold through a pressure supplied to an interior of the mold, wherein a low-pressure fluid is supplied to the interior of the mold at an initial stage of the vulcanization molding and after a start of a vulcanization of the rubber material the pressure of the fluid is increased stepwise or stepless, wherein the low-pressure fluid has a pressure of 0.5-0.8 MPa.

2. (previously presented): A method of vulcanization-molding a rubber material according to claim 1, wherein after the start of the vulcanization of the rubber material the temperature of the fluid is increased stepwise or stepless.

3. (previously presented): A method of vulcanization-molding a rubber material according to claim 1, wherein two fluids having different pressures and temperatures are selectively supplied to the interior of the vulcanization mold.

4. (previously presented): A method of vulcanization-molding a rubber material according to claim 1, wherein after the supply of the low-pressure fluid to the interior of the vulcanization mold, an inert gas having a pressure higher than that of the low-pressure fluid is supplied to the mold.

5. (previously presented): A method of vulcanization-molding a rubber material according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is a steam, a warm water or a hot air.

6. (currently amended): A method of vulcanization-molding a rubber material according to claim 1, wherein a time at the initial stage of the vulcanization molding is within a range of 0.5-3 minutes and ~~a pressure of a~~ wherein the fluid is steam ~~supplied to the vulcanization mold in such a time is within a range of 0.5-1.0 MPa~~.

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (new): A method of vulcanization-molding a rubber material according to claim 1, wherein the method forms a tire with protrusions having an average length of 0.25-0.4 mm.